

Age of Opportunity

Lesson 4

BIG IDEA: God intends the FAMILY to function as His primary LEARNING community.

RHETORICAL QUESTION: *What “life lessons” have you taught your teenager lately?*

- Family life provides UNIQUE opportunities to instruct our teens to form a biblical WORLDVIEW.
 - Judges 2:10 – the tragic consequence of APATHETIC, MISGUIDED, and/or IRRESPONSIBLE parenting!
 - Deuteronomy 6:1-12 – how can something like that be said ... the nation was WARNED and challenged at the same time!
 - “... the family is your CLASSROOM.” (Tripp, pg. 41)

*How does a “family setting” differ from a “school classroom setting”?
What are the benefits and risks of both?*

- “The more ACCURATE our understanding of our children, the more SUCCESSFUL we will be at doing what God has called us to do.” (Tripp, pg. 43)

Who Are Those Creatures?

- Our teens are SPIRITUAL beings
 - All people have been created to KNOW, love, serve, and obey God, not to live AUTONOMOUS, self-oriented, self-sufficient, and SELF-DIRECTED lives.
 - If** our teens are not living in light of the former, they will invariably be living out the LATTER!

- WORSHIP is not just an adult concept – it accurately describes the INCLINATION of the human heart.
- Our teens are SOCIAL beings
 - Not only have our teens been created for a relationship with GOD, but they have also been created to live in COMMUNITY with others.
 - SIN is the biggest enemy of God’s design for community!
 - Biblical data:
 - Our teens are INTERPRETERS
 - It may surprise you, but all teens are THINKERS!

What do teens think about? Do God and His Word have anything to say about these things?

- “(Teens) will try to ORGANIZE, INTERPRET, and explain the things that go on AROUND them and INSIDE of them.” (Tripp, pg. 46)
 - In the perfect environment of the Garden of Eden, Adam still needed GOD’S instruction. (See Genesis 2)
 - Daily, mundane activities and conversations are ripe with opportunities to communicate a GODWARD, BIBLICAL perspective of life.
- Teen BEHAVIOR flows from the inclinations and desires of their HEART. (See Proverbs 4:23 & Luke 6:43-45)
 - The ROOT cause of teen behavior adds another level of responsibility to Paul’s command in Eph. 6:4.
 - The correction of BEHAVIOR should not be a parent’s ULTIMATE and/or exclusive goal.
 - “Our goal is to be used of God to EXPOSE and NURTURE the hearts of our children so that they WANT to behave in ways that please the Lord.” (Tripp, pg. 48)

What heart issues might influence a bright student to get poor grades?